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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 24th and 28th meetings, on 6 and 31 March 2017. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2016 and programme of work for 2017 (A/71/34 and Corr.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2016 (A/71/779).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.25

4. At its 28th meeting, on 31 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/71/L.25), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Haiti.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.25 without a vote (see para. 6).

[1] A/C.5/71/SR.24 and A/C.5/71/SR.28.

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 64/262 of 29 March 2010, 65/270 of 4 April 2011, 66/259 of 9 April 2012, 67/256 of 12 April 2013, 68/266 of 9 April 2014, 69/275 of 2 April 2015 and 70/257 of 1 April 2016,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2016 and programme of work for 2017[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2016,[3]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2016 and programme of work for 2017;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2016;[3]

3. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to intensify efforts to ensure that the United Nations system gives timely and due consideration to the Unit's recommendations and to improve the implementation rates thereof;

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[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 34* and corrigendum (A/71/34 and Corr.1).

[3] A/71/779.

6. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

7. *Recognizes* that the effectiveness of the Unit system-wide is a shared responsibility of the Unit, the Member States and the secretariats of the participating organizations;

8. *Also recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue to share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the audit and oversight bodies;

10. *Requests* the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based system of the Unit and to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented;

11. *Welcomes* the continued reform efforts undertaken by the Unit to better serve the interests of the participating organizations and Member States, and encourages the Unit to continue its efforts in this regard;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

13. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Unit,[1] in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 107 of its resolution 70/247 of 23 December 2015 and paragraph 13 of its resolution 70/257, and requests the Secretary-General to consider options for hosting the website and the web-based tracking system of the Unit in-house and to report on this matter in the context of the forthcoming report on the implementation of the information and communications strategy for the Secretariat.